

THE INTERIM

JUNE 2001

HELENA, MONTANA

VOL. XIII NO. 1

THE INTERIM BEGINS A NEW CENTURY

Publication Resumes... Publication of *THE INTERIM* resumes with this issue and continues each month through December 2002. The monthly bulletin of legislative activities is published by the Legislative Services Division and includes reports on all meetings of legislative committees during the interim. The monthly calendar of activities in each issue provides current information on all future meetings. **The Back Page** presents an in-depth analysis each month on a topic of importance to Montanans, such as school finance, coal bed methane development, utility restructuring, and the rising costs of health care and health insurance. Occasionally, articles will stray from the strictly public policy analysis to the professional interests of staff as well as other themes.

For those of us who care about such things, this is the first issue of the 21st Century (triskaidekaphobiacs please note that this is Vol. XIII). It also marks a changing of the guard, of sorts. Connie Erickson has been the editor of *THE INTERIM* since the early 1990s (none of us can remember exactly when she took over the duties from Paul Verdon). She has done an outstanding job in putting together the newsletter during the past several interims, and it's not as easy as it looks. She has passed the blue pencil to Jeff Martin beginning with this issue. My immediate goal is to try and meet Connie's high standards, so please bear with me if the first issue is a little ragged. We may also look at changing the format of the newsletter so that we may have both substance and style. The real success of the newsletter relies on its many contributors.

There are some other changes that the alert reader will notice. Senate Bill No. 10 (Ch. 210, L. 2001) revised the laws governing interim committees and their functions. For example, each interim committee, in addition to rule review, is responsible for reviewing draft legislation of state agencies for which the committee has monitoring duties. The legislation also created the State-Tribal Relations Committee and revised some committee names (e.g., the Business, Labor, and

Agriculture Committee is now the Economic Affairs Committee). We will be discussing the new duties of interim committees in this issue and during the course of the interim. In addition, a few Legislative Services Division research staff have swapped committee assignments. Committee staff assignments are highlighted in **The Back Page**.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding *THE INTERIM*, please contact Jeff Martin at (406) 444-3064 or by e-mail at jmartin@mt.gov.

LEGISLATOR CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

Reimbursement for Interim Activities... The following information is provided to answer your questions about payment of salary and reimbursement of expenses for interim activities. If you still have questions after reading the information, you can contact the Financial Services Office, Legislative Services Division (Karen Berger at (406) 444-3411 or Debbie Bunker at 444-3201).

Generally, legislators should use the mode of travel that provides the lowest overall cost to the state. Make your lodging reservations early to obtain state-rate rooms and **always** request state employee rates. If you use commercial air, make reservations early to obtain discounted rates and try to avoid costly schedule changes.

Statutory Provisions... Section 5-2-302, MCA provides that "[w]hen the legislature is not in session, a member of the legislature, while engaged in legislative business with prior authorization of the appropriate funding authority, is entitled to:

- (1) a mileage allowance as provided in 2-18-503;
- (2) expenses as provided in 2-18-501 and 2-18-502; and

- (3) a salary equal to one full day's pay at the rate of a classified state employee, described in 5-2-301(1) for each 24-hour period of time (from midnight to midnight), or portion thereof, spent away from home on authorized legislative business. However, if time spent for business other than authorized legislative business results in lengthening a legislator's stay away from home into an additional 24-hour period, [the legislator] may not be compensated for the additional day."

Reimbursement Rates...

In-state meals (receipt not required)	Breakfast \$5.00 Lunch \$6.00 Dinner \$12.00
Mileage (receipt not required)	\$0.345/mile for first 1,000 miles each month; \$0.315/mile thereafter
Lodging October 15 thru May 14 (receipt IS required)	\$35/day plus applicable taxes, total \$36.40
Lodging May 15 thru October 14 (receipt IS required)	\$55/day (current federal standard rate), plus applicable taxes, total \$57.20
Lodging without a receipt (e.g., you stay with friends or family)	\$12/day regardless of date

Guidelines for Evaluating Reasonableness of Claims...The following guidelines are used to determine if time spent away from home reasonably falls within the context of authorized legislative business:

- Overnight lodging is reasonable when the member would be required to leave home earlier than 6:30 a.m. or arrive home later than 9:30 p.m. in order to have attended all of the meeting or have conducted all of the legislative business authorized. To determine whether overnight lodging would be required, an average travel speed (including time for incidental stops) of 50 miles an hour is used.
- A legislator is entitled to a day's salary when necessarily away from home for authorized legislative business. A member is considered necessarily away from home on the day of a meeting or other authorized legislative activity and on any other day when travel qualified as described above is required.
- A meal falling within reasonable travel times may be claimed.

The following mitigating factors will be applied in interpreting the above guidelines:

- The welfare of a legislator must be considered. Weather and health issues are key considerations.
- If a member flies instead of drives, variations are considered.

- At times, a member may choose more expensive modes of travel because of schedule conflicts that would make it otherwise impossible to conduct authorized legislative business. Such cases are considered in establishing reasonableness.

Legislators Who Live in Helena...A legislator who lives in Helena and attends an interim committee meeting in Helena is not entitled to mileage or lodging reimbursement. However, the legislator is entitled to a midday meal allowance on the day of the meeting regardless of the proximity of the meeting place to the individual's residence. In addition, the legislator may claim salary in the same manner as all other legislators.

Submission of Claims...To receive payment of salary and reimbursement of expenses for interim legislative work, a legislator must complete and sign a Statement of Expense for Montana Legislators. Forms are available from committee secretaries and from the Legislative Services Division financial office, Room 154 in the Capitol.

The legislator must return the claim to the committee secretary or to the Legislative Services Division financial office, accompanied by original receipts as noted on the claim form. The legislator should clearly note the number of days of salary, lodging, and meals claimed. The claim should be completed and signed in ink. If special circumstances apply to the claim, those should be noted.

Claims will be processed as quickly as possible. The salary portion of the claim will be paid with the next biweekly state payroll cycle. Warrants for expenses, not including salary, will be issued within three working days of receipt of the claim **by the financial office**. This means that you will usually receive two state warrants for each claim you submit, one for the expenses and one for the payroll. Claim forms that are incomplete or that do not include the required receipts, may be returned to the legislator for completion. In such cases, the claims processing period may be extended.

LIBRARY REFERENCE CENTER

Alert Service...The Reference Center is starting an Alert Service to direct staff and legislators to new publications that may be of interest to them. The service is in its infancy and we're working out the bugs, but we'll soon be able to send each participant a monthly list of new publications on topics of his or her choice. If you'd like more information about the service, topics used, or how to get signed up, please contact Beth or Bentley in the Reference Center at (406) 444-3064.

Committee Minutes From the 2001 Legislative Session...Most of the minutes from the 2001 legislative committees have been finalized by House and

Senate staff and stored electronically. Some are still being finalized and should be accessible in a few weeks. Reference Center staff can provide copies of minutes from the electronic records. The Historical Society Archives (444-4775) houses the original paper records and audio tapes, and the Law Library (444-3660) has paper copies as well. Minutes will likely be available on the Internet by the end of June.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee to Meet June 18th...The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) will meet June 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 of the Capitol. The agenda includes election of officers, an orientation on the committee's role, presentation of the 2003 Biennium Fiscal Report, HJR 1 (mental health interim study), the LFC/LFD interim work plan, various required reports, subcommittee appointments, and other committee business. For more information on the June 18th meeting, contact Clayton Schenck by e-mail at cschenck@mt.gov or by telephone at (406) 444-2986.

Fiscal Report for 2003 Biennium Nears Completion...The Legislative Fiscal Report, which details the fiscal decisions of the 2001 legislature, is on track for completion in time for presentation to the LFC at its first meeting of the interim. The presentation will summarize the 2001 biennium budget and fiscal policy enacted by the 57th Legislature. The publication itself will consist of four volumes:

- Volume 1: Statewide Perspectives (an overview)
- Volume 2: Revenue Estimates
- Volumes 3 & 4: Agency Budgets

Copies of Volume 1 will be distributed to all legislators in the latter half of June. Other volumes will be available to legislators upon request. The entire report will also be available on the Internet at the Legislative Fiscal Division website (<http://leg.mt.gov/fiscal/index.htm>) where legislators, agencies and citizens can access and print any specific part of the report that they might need. Electronic copies of the reports reduces printing and distribution costs for the numerous sets of the report. The number of printed volumes available for purchase will be limited.

LFC/LFD Interim Work Plan...The interim work plan defines the activities of the Legislative Finance Committee and the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) for the period that began at the end of the 2001 Session and ends at the beginning of the 2003 session, a period of about 20 months. As occurs every biennium, there are more potential projects for the interim than there is time to do them. The LFC will

need to prioritize a long list of items required by either legislative action or suggested for attention during this interim. Topping the list will be the HJR 1 study of mental health services, studies or other activities required in HB 2, and the review of local government revenue dedication laws required in SB 162.

HJR 1: Mental Health Services Interim Study...The Legislative Finance Committee will appoint a subcommittee to conduct the interim study on mental health issues directed in HJR 1. Subcommittee members will be selected from the LFC, the Legislative Audit Committee and from the following interim committees: Children, Families, Health and Human Services; Law and Justice; and State Administration and Veterans' Affairs. If you would like to be included on the interested persons list to receive meeting notices and agendas for the subcommittee meetings, please contact Lois Steinbeck at lsteinbeck@mt.gov or at (406) 444-5391 or Susan Fox at sfox@mt.gov or at 444-3597.

Required Reports Identified for Tracking...Montana law and other legislative actions require that the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning and many state agencies provide reports to either the LFC or the LFD throughout each biennium. These reports address a variety of fiscal issues that have been identified by the Legislature as needing periodic update. The LFD tracks all of these reports and ensures that copies are available to the LFC members and for other inspection on a timely basis. The LFD also alerts the LFC of instances in which reports are not received on a timely basis. The LFC will receive a report on the status 2001 biennium reports, and a copy of reports received since its last meeting, and a list of reports that will be required during the 2003 biennium. For further information, contact Jon Moe at jonmoe@mt.gov or at 444-4581.

REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Committee to Meet June 18...A new interim, a new Capitol, six new members, a new name (and acronym), and new duties mark the dawn of the 2001-2002 interim for the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee (RTIC). Formerly the Revenue and Taxation Committee, and before that, the Revenue Oversight Committee, the 2001 Legislature changed RTIC's name (SB 10, Ch. 210, L.2001) to better reflect its statutorily-assigned duties, specifically its work with the Department of Transportation.

RTIC's first meeting of the interim is scheduled for Monday, June 18. Members will join the Legislative Finance Committee at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 of the Capitol to hear the Fiscal Analyst's financial report for the 2003 biennium. Following the joint meeting with the Finance Committee, RTIC will convene across

the hall in Room 137 to elect its chair and vice-chair, adopt a meeting schedule, and discuss the major topics that are likely to occupy the Committee's meeting agendas for the next 14 months. Some of the activities that members and interested individuals can look forward to are described in the following paragraphs.

Statutory duties...As its name now indicates, RTIC, "has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions for the Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Department of Transportation (MDT) and the entities attached to the departments for administrative purposes." (5-5-227, MCA) Committee review of agency legislative proposals was assigned to all interim committees by SB 10. The intent is to allow members of interim committees a preview of legislation that the agencies within their subject area jurisdiction plan to introduce.

The following summarizes required agency reports and other duties of the Committee:

- The DOR must report (15-1-230, MCA) to the Committee at least once each year regarding the tax credit for planned gifts made to qualified charitable endowment funds (15-30-166, MCA), the total amount of the credit claimed, and the department's cost associated with administering the credit. House Bill No. 377 (Ch. 226, L. 2001) extended the termination date for this reporting requirement to December 31, 2007.
- House Joint Resolution No. 2 directs the DOR to "report to the Revenue and [Transportation] Interim Committee at each meeting during the 2003 biennium on the progress of integrating POINTS with the state accounting system to enable the reporting of audits, penalties, and interest collections separately on SABHRS."
- As if HJR 2 weren't enough, House Bill No. 2 (p. A-11) requires that DOR "provide status reports on the POINTS system to the Revenue and [Transportation] Interim Committee at each regularly scheduled Committee meeting. The status reports must include work plan benchmark updates, progress on fixing mission-critical and nonmission-critical defects, and the status of implementing and operating all phases of the system."
- House Bill No. 143 (Ch. 143, L. 2001) requires that the DOR review the taxation of pass-through entities and report to the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee at least once each year.
- The 1999 Legislature exempted intangible property from property taxation (SB 111, Ch. 583, L. 1999). The Department of Revenue is required to

report on intangible personal property annually to the Committee (15-6-218(5), MCA).

- The Department of Transportation is statutorily responsible for discussing with RTIC the status of cooperative agreement negotiations with Indian tribes on motor fuel taxation. Section 15-70-234, MCA, provides that if the Legislature is not in session after any negotiations are complete, "the agreement must be submitted to the [Revenue and Transportation] Committee for review and comment before the final agreement is submitted to the Attorney General for approval pursuant to 18-11-105."
- The Board of Oil and Gas Conservation is required to report at least once a year to the Committee regarding oil production from new enhanced recovery projects or from horizontally completed wells (sec. 21, Ch. 9, Sp. L. November 1993). The first and only report was delivered September 1994.
- RTIC is responsible for preparing the Revenue Estimating Resolution (HJR2) and for analyzing the amount of tax revenue derived from previously regulated electric utilities (69-8-502, MCA) and natural gas suppliers (69-3-1409, MCA).

Legislative Council Assigns Taxation of Rural Lands Study...At its May 18 meeting, the Legislative Council assigned the study contained in SJR 21 to the Committee. SJR 21 requests a study of the property taxation of agricultural land and rural nonagricultural land in Montana. Stay tuned to future editions of *THE INTERIM* for more information on that study. MDT will be working on a study contained in SJR 6 (review of traffic codes) and will be reporting to the Committee as work progresses. The Committee will have the opportunity to review and comment on any legislation amending traffic codes that results from the SJR 6 study.

Miscellaneous...Specific issues related to the DOR and MDT will round out RTIC's interim activities and no doubt additional topics will surface as the months progress. Anyone who was not on the Revenue and Taxation Committee's mailing list last interim and who would like to be included on RTIC's mailing list can contact Committee staff. Individuals on the mailing list will receive RTIC meeting notices and agendas.

To be included on the mailing list or for more information about RTIC's 2001-2002 interim, contact Leanne Kurtz, Committee staff, at (406) 444-3593 or via e-mail at lekurtz@mt.gov.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Business Committee Assumes a New Name...Last interim's Business, Labor, and Agriculture Committee has been renamed the Economic Affairs Committee to better reflect the wide range of responsibilities facing the Committee this interim. The duties and tasks assigned to the Committee by both statute and the Legislative Council will undoubtedly keep the members occupied for the next several months. The members of the Committee for the 2001- 2002 interim are:

Sen. Jon Ellingson, Missoula	Rep. Kathleen Galvin-Halcro, Great Falls
Sen. Dale Mahlum, Missoula	Rep. Gary Matthews, Miles City
Sen. Glenn Roush, Cut Bank	Rep. Joe McKenney, Great Falls
	Rep. Steve Vick, Belgrade

Health Care Study Assigned...At its May 18 meeting, the Legislative Council assigned SJR 22, a study of rising health care costs and health insurance, to the Economic Affairs Committee. The Council recommended that a joint subcommittee be established among members of the Economic Affairs Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee, and the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee. The Council's recommendation also included a directive that no more than 12 members serve on the subcommittee.

The study directs the Committee to review rising health insurance costs and actions the Legislature should consider to control those costs. The following items highlight the nature and scope of the assignment:

- purchasing pools for individual and small group insurance;
- provider reimbursement rates and cost shifting of health care costs;
- access to affordable prescription drugs;
- strategies to decrease the number of uninsured Montanans;
- factors that cause health insurance rates to rise faster than the rate of inflation;
- the feasibility of recreating the Health Care Advisory Council.

The issues raised by SJR 22 lend themselves to a number of study approaches, but each requires the active participation and involvement of both legislators and the various stakeholders named in the study resolution. Committee staff intends to recommend that representatives from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the State Auditor's office, health care providers, hospitals, health insurance providers, consumers of health care and health care insurance, and local governments provide basic information to Committee members to assist in

prioritizing activities to better ensure that time and energy is allocated in the most appropriate manner.

Statutory Duties...The Committee's statutory responsibilities for agency rule review and program monitoring have been expanded. In addition to the agencies assigned to the Committee under 5-5-223, MCA, the newly created Office of Economic Development in the Governor's Office was added by a provision contained in Senate Bill No. 445. Also, Senate Bill No. 10, modified the way in which agency legislation is requested. Previously, Legislative Council was the requesting entity for agency bill drafts. Now, each interim committee has taken over the duty of requesting assigned agency legislation for the upcoming session. This should allow each committee an opportunity to better understand substantive policy changes before seeing them for the first time in January of 2003. The agencies assigned to the Committee are:

Department of Agriculture	Department of Commerce
Department of Labor and Industry	Department of Livestock
Public Service Commission	State Auditor
Office of Economic Affairs	State Fund (assigned by request of SAIC)

The Committee's work plan will contain a series of options for conducting rule review, program monitoring, and draft legislation review in order to provide a reasonable and effective process for legislators and the Executive Branch.

Organizational Meeting Scheduled for June 15...Sen. Dale Mahlum, the Committee's senior Senator, has tentatively scheduled the Committee's first meeting of the interim on June 15, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 137 of the state Capitol. The proposed agenda includes several administrative items such as selecting presiding officers, adopting an interim schedule, and discussing a preliminary work plan. Additionally, time will be available to discuss the issues related to SJR 22 and the best way to approach the selection of subcommittee members.

If you have comments or questions about the Committee, or would like to be added to the Interested Persons list, please contact Gordy Higgins at (406) 444-3064, or by e-mail at gohiggins@mt.gov. The Committee's website, located at <<http://leg.mt.gov>>, will be updated this summer to reflect its new responsibilities and to include its work products.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Members Appointed...Committee members for the 2001-02 Interim include Senators Eve Franklin, Duane Grimes, Gerald Pease, and Jerry O'Neil and Representatives Bob Lawson, Michelle Lee, Trudi Schmidt, and Bill Thomas. The Committee is responsible for monitoring the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), including administrative rule review. The Committee will review legislative reports required of DPPHS, serve as the clearing house for reports prepared by the agency, and review agency bill draft requests for the 2003 Legislature. House Bill No. 2 requires reports to the Committee on DPHHS rates for each program for services, wage and benefits rates, and the methodology by which they are calculated. The Department will also report on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds. Other House Bill No. 2 issues that the Committee is likely to be interested in as an extension of its monitoring duties include the development of an Addictive and Mental Disorders Division management plan for children's residential treatment services, developmental disabilities services reporting, tobacco use prevention programs, and the use of tobacco settlement funds for provider rate increases.

Council Assigns Studies to Committee...The Legislative Council has assigned Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, a study of privatization of foster care and adoptive services, to this interim committee. The preliminary study outline envisions a staff white paper developed as a result of a review of current statutes and practices in Montana, a review of general privatization information, a look at other states' approaches, and interviews with stakeholders. The white paper will discuss potential issues and options for Committee consideration.

The Legislative Council also recommended that Senate Joint Resolution No. 22, a study of health care costs, be assigned to the Economic Affairs Committee and that a subcommittee of not more than 12 members be formed to include members from the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Members of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee will be asked to participate in the House Joint Resolution No. 1 study of mental health issues. This is a continuation of a study begun last interim with membership from multiple committees under the leadership of the Legislative Finance Committee.

In addition, there are 6 other bills that involve Committee monitoring of the Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Prevention, an administrative rule review on personal care facilities, the multi-agency children's initiative, the resolution regarding litter and alcohol use, and a feasibility report on a chronic disease registry.

Organizational Meeting Planned for August...The Committee is not expected to hold its organizational meeting until August. Susan Byorth Fox is the lead

research analyst for the Committee and David Niss will be staff attorney. If you wish to be on the interested persons list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox, Legislative Services Division, at (406) 444-3597 or at sfox@mt.gov.

DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Commission Begins Work...The Districting and Apportionment Commission has completed its organizational phase and will soon begin the process of legislative redistricting based on the 2000 Census data.

The Commission met on April 18, 2001 and adopted the state of Montana in its entirety as the U.S. Congressional District for the state. The Commission also approved beginning the legislative redistricting process in Glacier County and adjacent western Montana districts, as necessary, and to proceed in a clockwise motion throughout the state. The Commission will proceed along the Hi-Line, including Cascade County, to eastern Montana. Following the completion of eastern Montana, proceed west through southcentral Montana, then north through the western third of the state.

Staff will be making preliminary visits around the state, beginning in late June, to meet with the county Clerk and Recorders, central committee representatives, Legislators, and others who are interested in receiving and sharing information about the potential new districts. Staff will then prepare numerous options for the Commission to consider, based on the information received and on which to hold public hearings.

Schedule for Public Hearings...The first public hearings for North central and Central Montana are tentatively scheduled for September, 2001, and for Eastern Montana districts, tentatively scheduled for November, 2001. Public hearings for South central Montana are tentatively scheduled for January, 2002, for Southwestern Montana in March, 2002, and for Western Montana in May, 2002.

In November, 2002, the Commission will assign the senate districts and hold the statutorily required public hearing at the State Capitol. A senator's term may not be shortened as a result of redistricting, but a senator may be reassigned to a district that is composed of new area or new house districts. The Commission is required to submit the plan to the 2003 Legislature for recommendations. The Legislature has 30 days to comment, and the Commission has 30 days to finalize the plan and submit it to the Secretary of State's Office. At that time, the plan becomes law and the Commission is dissolved. The new districts will be in place for filing for the legislative elections in 2004.

Status of Redistricting Lawsuit...At the April 18, 2001, Commission meeting Attorney General Mike McGrath requested that the Commission consider

joining the Old Person v. Brown (formerly Cooney) litigation as a party for the purpose of settlement negotiations. The Old Person lawsuit involves the current legislative districts and seeks to have an additional American Indian majority house district and senate district in the Glacier, Pondera, Flathead, and Lake Counties region aggregating the populations of the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations and correlated counties.

In a May 4, 2001 conference call, the Commission declined to join the lawsuit and chose to adopt a resolution, for which the appropriate language is currently under consideration, stating its intentions for the 2000 round of redistricting, which is not at issue in the present litigation. The intention of asking the Commission to join the litigation was to potentially prevent a redistricting prior to the 2002 election which would result if the state were to lose the lawsuit. The lawsuit has currently been remanded back to federal District Court for further proceedings to determine whether, "in light of the totality of the circumstances, vote dilution has occurred; that is whether under the 1992 redistricting plan American Indians in Montana have 'less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.'" (from Old Person v. Cooney Circuit Court Opinion).

If the lawsuit is settled as desired, or if the state prevails, redistricting will follow its usual course for the 2004 election. The Commission has decided to begin the new redistricting process in this same area of Glacier and Pondera Counties and corresponding counties west of the Continental Divide in order to show a good faith effort at considering the proposed districts under the current population data and the Commission's adopted criteria.

Minutes of the meetings and a copy of the resolution (when finalized) will be made available on the Commission website which can be found under "Redistricting" on the Legislative Branch Home Page or under Interim Committees.

For more information or to be placed on the Commission's interested persons list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox at the Legislative Services Division at (406) 444-3597 or at sfox@mt.gov.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The primary focus the of Legislative Council meeting on May 18 was selection of interim studies for the 2001-2002 interim and assignment of those studies to interim committees. (See **The Back Page** article of this issue for details.) In other action, the Council:

- approved operating budgets for the Legislative Services Division and the Interim Committees and Activities Program for FY2002 and FY2003;
- approved future meeting dates; and
- adopted revised rules of procedure.

The Council will meet again in late June for a strategic planning session. If you have any questions about Council activities, please call Lois Menzies at (406) 444-3066 or send an e-mail to lomenzies@mt.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

First Meeting Held in May...The Environmental Quality Council (EQC), a committee of legislative and public members, held its first meeting of the legislative interim in Helena on May 23rd and 24th in Room 102 of the State Capitol.

Duties of the Council...The Council, to which state law assigns the challenging task of "encouraging productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment" was created in 1971 and meets regularly between Legislative sessions to discuss and make recommendations on natural resource, environmental, energy, and fish and wildlife policy in the state. The EQC also has statutory legislative monitoring and program evaluation responsibilities for the Departments of Environmental Quality; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and Natural Resources and Conservation.

At the May meeting, the Council planned to review, discuss, and adopt its work plan for the interim. The EQC's work plan prioritizes study and oversight topics, allocates staff and Council resources, establishes an interim meeting date calendar, and generally sets the tone for the interim. Potential topics to be addressed by the EQC during the interim could include: oversight of the environmental impact statement on coal bed methane development in the state, alternatives for funding fire suppression and management of forest fuels in relation to air quality concerns, oversight of the legislative changes made to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, water quantity and quality issues, and other issues that the EQC may wish to pursue.

In addition, on Thursday, May 24th, the EQC received an update on Montana's drought situation and reviewed the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission's authority to adopt a policy and promulgate rules to regulate social conflicts on the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.

For More Information...The EQC web site at:
<http://leg.mt.gov/services/lepo/index.htm> contains information about the EQC
 and its work, copies of agendas, reports, and meeting minutes.

INTERIM COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

House and Senate Appoint Members...

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Rep. Mark Noennig
 Rep. Doug Mood
 Rep. George Golie
 Sen. Tom Beck
 Sen. Mack Cole
 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella

Rep. Paul Sliter
 Rep. Kim Gillan
 Rep. Brad Newman
 Sen. Steve Doherty
 Sen. Chris Christiaens
 Sen. Fred Thomas

MICROBUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger
 Sen. Don Ryan

Rep. Eileen Carney
 Sen. Mike Sprague

GAMING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Rep. John Witt

Sen. Dale Mahlum

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Rep. Doug Mood
 Rep. Don Hedges
 Rep. Monica Lindeen
 Sen. Walter McNutt
 Sen. Pete Ekegren
 Sen. Jon Tester
 Julia Page
 Howard Strause

Rep. Debby Barrett
 Rep. Christopher Harris
 Rep. Paul Clark
 Sen. Mack Cole
 Sen. Bea McCarthy
 Sen. Ken Toole
 Ellen Porter
 Tom Ebzery

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Rep. Verdell Jackson
 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella

Rep. John Musgrove
 Sen. Bill Crismore

LEGISLATIVE CONSUMER COMMITTEE

Rep Thomas Dell
 Sen. Walter McNutt

Rep. Roy Brown
 Sen. Debbie Shea

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Rep. Joe Balyeat
 Rep. Dee Brown
 Rep. Hal Jacobson
 Sen. John Cobb
 Sen. Jim Elliott
 Sen. Ken Miller

Rep. Jeff Pattison
 Rep. David Wanzenreid
 Rep. Bill Eggers
 Sen. Cory Stapleton
 Sen. Dan Harrington
 Sen. Jon Tester

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rep. William Price
 Rep. Dave Lewis
 Rep. Joey Jayne
 Sen. Greg Jergeson
 Sen. Royal Johnson
 Sen. Emily Stonington

Rep. Gary Forrester
 Rep. Dave Kasten
 Rep. Joe Tropila
 Sen. Bob Keenan
 Sen. Linda Nelson
 Sen. Tom Zook

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Rep. Steve Vick
 Rep. Gary Matthews
 Sen. Jon Ellingson
 Sen Glenn Roush

Rep. Joe McKenney
 Rep. Kathleen Galvin-Halcro
 Sen. Dale Mahlum

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Rep. Bill Thomas
 Rep. Trudi Schmidt
 Sen. Eve Franklin
 Sen. Jerry O'Neil

Rep. Bob Lawson
 Rep. Michelle Lee
 Duane Grimes
 Sen. Gerald Pease

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Rep. Gay Ann Masolo
 Rep. Art Peterson
 Rep. Tom Facey
 Sen. Edward Butcher
 Sen. Bill Glaser
 Sen. Don Ryan

Rep. Joan Andersen
 Rep. Jeff Mangan
 Rep. Gary Branae
 Sen. Alvin Ellis, Jr.
 Sen. Linda Nelson
 Sen. Debbie Shea

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Rep. Jim Shockley
 Rep. Gilda Clancy
 Rep. Gail Gutsche
 Sen. Al Bishop
 Sen. Duane Grimes
 Sen. Jerry O'Neil

Rep. Jeff Laszloffy
 Rep. Tim Callahan
 Rep. Frank Smith
 Sen. Steve Doherty
 Sen. Dan Harrington
 Sen. Gerald Pease

REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Rep. Bob Story	Rep. Roger Somerville
Rep. Ron Devlin	Rep. Jesse Laslovich
Rep. Ron Erickson	Rep. Christine Kaufmann
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella	Sen. Bob DePratu
Sen. Jon Ellingson	Sen. Bill Glaser
Sen. Glenn Roush	Sen. Mike Taylor

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Rep. Allan Walters	Rep. Edith Clark
Rep. Ralph Lenhart	Rep. Larry Jent
Sen. John Bohlinger	Sen. Don Hargrove
Sen. Glenn Roush	Sen. Ken Toole

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rep. Ken Peterson	Rep. Rick Ripley
Rep. Norma Bixby	Rep. Carol Juneau
Sen. Edward Butcher	Sen. Chris Christiaens
Sen. Jerry O'Neil	Sen. Gerald Pease

COMPUTER SYSTEMS PLANNING COUNCIL

Rep. John Brueggeman	Rosana Skelton
Chris Ahner	Chuckie Cramer

RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION

Rep. Cindy Younkin	Rep. Matt McCann
Sen. Bea McCarthy	Sen. Bill Tash

FUTURE FISHERIES REVIEW PANEL

Rep. Dan Fuchs	Sen. Jack Wells
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ELECTRICAL UTILITY RESTRUCTURING TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rep. Roy Brown	Rep. Stan Fisher
Rep. Alan Olson	Rep. Tom Dell
Rep. Steven Gallus	Rep. Jim Keane
Sen. Fred Thomas	Sen. Walter McNutt
Sen. Alvin Ellis, Jr.	Sen. Linda Nelson
Sen. Don Ryan	Sen. Emily Stonington

Nonlegislative members of the Transition Advisory Committee will be listed in the July issue of **THE INTERIM**.

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON MONTANA-ARCO LITIGATION

Rep. Rick Laible	Rep. Larry Cyr
Sen. Arnie Mohl	Sen. Debbie Shea

MONTANA HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Diane Rice	Sen. Dale Mahlum
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DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rep. Dick Haines	Sen. Linda Nelson
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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON RIVER GOVERNANCE

Rep. Steven Gallus	Rep. Aubyn Curtis
Sen. Bill Tash	Sen. Bea McCarthy

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION

Rep. Steve Vick
Three additional appointments are pending

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Takes on New Duties...In 1999, the Legislature revamped the interim committee process by creating permanent interim committees. One of the new permanent committees was the Education Interim Committee. Because the new interim committee structure did not include a committee for local government issues, the Legislative Council assigned local government duties to the Education Interim Committee. This arrangement was formalized by the Legislature in 2001 with the passage of Senate Bill No. 10 and the creation of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee.

Committee Anticipates Busy Interim...The Education and Local Government Committee anticipates a busy interim. In addition to its statutory duties of agency monitoring and administrative rule review, the Committee will be involved in the school funding study mandated in House Bill No. 625. The Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction are currently working to design a new school funding plan for Montana. The Governor and the Superintendent will present the plan to the Committee in January 2002, at which time the Committee will begin its own independent analysis of the plan. The Committee will also hold public hearings in the spring to take public comment on the plan. Based on its own analysis and on the public hearings, the Committee will then make recommendations to the Governor for her consideration. The Committee also has the option of offering its own recommendations to the 2003 Legislature.

Just prior to the convening of the 2001 Legislature, the Montana Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the statutes governing the transfer of property from one school district to another. Senate Bill No. 111 was introduced to address the issue of territory transfers. The legislation garnered a lot of support as well as opposition. In the end, the Legislature failed to pass the bill. Instead, the Legislature passed House Joint Resolution No. 41, calling for a study of the school district territory transfer laws. The study has been assigned to the Education and Local Government Committee.

Committee To Meet Later in Summer... The Education and Local Government Committee will hold its first meeting later this summer. Look for details in the July issue of **THE INTERIM**. For a list of Committee members, consult the article on interim committee membership in this issue.

If you wish to be included on the mailing list for the Committee, please send your request to Connie Erickson, Legislative Services Division, P.O. Box 201706, Helena 59620-1706. You can also call at (406) 444-3064 or e-mail to <cerickson@mt.gov>.

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Study Assignments...Members of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAIC) will tackle two studies this interim that were requested through the following two resolutions:

- SJR 5, which, among other veterans' issues, requests examination of how the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs' health care service delivery impacts Montana's veterans and may shift costs to state and local health care service providers; and
- HJR 8 requests an examination of Montana's voting systems with an eye toward avoiding the quagmire of voting issues encountered in Florida during the last presidential election.

Statutory duties...The SAIC also has statutory duties encompassing a pre-session review of legislation affecting Montana's public employee retirement systems and agency rule review and program monitoring of the:

- < Department of Administration;
- < Secretary of State's Office;
- < Commissioner of Political Practices;
- < Department of Military Affairs; and

< Montana Veterans' Affairs Division under the Board of Veterans' Affairs.

Committee Membership...As an interim committee, the SAIC is organized as a bi-partisan committee with its eight members balanced by party and legislative house. Members of the SAIC are as follows:

Sen. John Bohlinger (R - Billings)	Rep. Edith Clark (R - Sweetgrass)
Sen. Don Hargrove (R - Belgrade)	Rep. Larry Jent (D - Bozeman)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D - Cut Bank)	Rep. Ralph Lenhart (D - Glendive)
Sen. Ken Toole (D - Helena)	Rep. Allan Walters (R - Hamilton)

Organizational meeting scheduled...The SAIC will conduct an organizational meeting on June 15, 2001, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 of the state Capitol. Members will elect officers, review the SAIC's interim responsibilities, receive background briefings from its assigned executive branch agencies, and review and adopt an interim study plan and meeting schedule.

For more information on the SAIC's activities, please contact Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Services Division Research Analyst, at (406) 444-3596.

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Recreated...When the interim committee process was revised by the 1999 Legislature, the Committee on Indian Affairs was folded into the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Interim Committee. Because the work of the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Committee was very substantial and left little time to devote to Indian issues, the Committee recommended that a separate State-Tribal Relations Committee be established. This was accomplished with the passage of Senate Bill No. 10 by the 2001 Legislature.

To Meet in Late Summer...The State-Tribal Relations Committee will hold its first meeting in late summer. At that time, the Committee will adopt its work plan for the interim. Part of that work plan will include visits to reservations. Further details of the meeting and the work plan will be available in the July issue of THE INTERIM. For a list of Committee members, please consult the article on interim committee membership in this issue.

If you wish to be placed on the Committee's mailing list, please send your request to Connie Erickson, Legislative Services Division, P.O. Box 201706, Helena 59620-1706. You can also call at 444-3064 or e-mail to <cerickson@mt.gov>.

TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee to Meet in June...The Transition Advisory Committee on Electrical Industry Restructuring (Committee) is tentatively scheduled to meet on June 19 in Room 102 of the Capitol at 9:00 a.m. The meeting date and time need to be confirmed with the current Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Fred Thomas. The purpose of the meeting is primarily informational and may include the election of officers. The agenda has not been finalized, but topics for discussion may include:

- review of legislation affecting energy development in the state;
- the assertion of authority by the Public Service Commission related to generation assets under SB 390 (the 1997 enabling legislation for restructuring) and HB 474 (enacted in 2001);
- the status of the agreement for MPC to purchase power from PPL-Montana
- update on the sale of MPC transmission and distribution property to NorthWestern Energy;
- availability electrical energy for large industrial customers;
- self-generation employed by Montana Resources;
- temporary siting of generation facilities; and
- the Governor's plans for energy development in the state.

Committee Membership...The Committee consists of 12 legislators (6 from each house) and 12 appointed nonvoting members representing various agencies, interest groups, and Montana citizens in general. The legislative membership of the Committee may be found in the article on committee appointments above. However, at this writing, the make-up of the nonlegislative members has not been confirmed.

The next issue of **THE INTERIM** will contain a more detailed discussion of the Committee's duties and activities. For more information about the Committee or to be put on the Committee' mailing list contact Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division, by phone at (406) 444-3595 or by e-mail at <jmartin@mt.gov> .

THE BACK PAGE

AND THEY'RE OFF! AN OVERVIEW OF INTERIM STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES

By Dave Bohyer, LSD Research Director

INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Services Division (LSD) is required by statute to conduct a poll of all legislators to ascertain the relative priority of each study requested by the legislature. The poll is to be conducted "immediately" following adjournment sine die and the results of the poll are to be considered by the Legislative Council, which has the statutory duty to assign the study requests to the various legislative committees that function during the interim between regular legislative sessions. This Back Page article describes the poll of the 57th Legislature and its results and actions taken by the Legislative Council on May 18, 2001, to assign the various studies.

THE INTERIM STUDY POLL

The LSD mailed the poll on April 23, 2001, the first business day following adjournment sine die of the 57th Legislature. There were 20 studies included in the poll. A return date of May 2, 2001, was set, primarily to accommodate the demands of the interim workload. The LSD staff compiled data from the poll ballots through May 16 and reported the results to the Legislative Council on May 18.

RESULTS OF THE POLL

Of the 150 ballots sent out, 128 were returned for a participation rate of 84%.

The voting method used to conduct the poll was the Borda method, a method by which each study could be ranked, with a ranking of "1" being the highest and a ranking of "20" being the lowest. Points were then assigned in reverse order, with a study ranked as "1" receiving 20 points and a study ranked as "20" receiving 1 point and the same method applied to rankings in between. (This method is the same method as is used by media organizations to rank the intercollegiate sports teams of colleges and universities throughout the country.)

The average number of points received by the studies was 1,192 points. The highest ranking study, SB 625, received 2,239 points. At the other end of the scale, HJR 37 received 589 points. Of the 20 studies in the poll, only eight received more than the average number of points.

The median number of points received was 1,162, meaning that 10 studies received that number or more points and 10 studies received fewer.

POLL FINDINGS

The three top ranked studies -- HB 625, HJR 27, and SJR 22 -- address, respectively, school finance, coal bed methane development, and the rising costs of health care and health insurance. Each of these issues had commanded significant attention during the 57th Legislative Session, but questions also remained that, by near consensus, deserved additional review.

The studies ranked 4, 5, and 6 all related to fiscal issues and were assigned, in the enabling legislation, to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the staff who support it, the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD).

Interim studies were requested by bill in three cases:

- HB 625 -- education funding;
- HB 2 -- vacancy savings as a budgeting tool; and
- SB 162 -- earmarking of local government revenue.

Language in the enabling legislation effectively assigned the study in four other cases:

- HJR 27 -- oversight of coal bed methane EIS (to Environmental Quality Council or EQC);
- HJR 1 -- study of mental health managed care (to the LFC);
- HJR 35 -- prepaid college tuition (to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee); and
- HJR 40 -- use of "pre-professional skills test" in teacher licensure (to the Board of Public Education).

The three bottom ranked studies -- HJR 40, SJR 6, and HJR 37 -- may be done, respectively, by the Board of Public Education (HJR 40) and the Department of Transportation, but the decision will be made by the Board or the Department, as appropriate. Interestingly, the 16th ranked study -- HJR 35, a study of prepaid college tuition -- is very narrowly focused and much of the work on the topic was completed during development of legislation. Consequently, staff research or a "white paper" will complete the study envisioned.

In the final analysis, 10 or 11 of the 20 study requests were more or less assigned before the Legislative Council undertook assigning interim studies.

LSD STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The LSD staff have traditionally prepared a recommendation to the Legislative Council regarding the assignment of interim studies. Three factors guided the staff recommendations:

- the results/rankings of the poll;
- resource availability -- staff time and appropriations; and
- balancing time commitment and work loads among committees.

Because the Legislative Council has the responsibility to assign interim studies, the staff recommendations are simply that: recommendations. Nevertheless, they are influenced by a number of other considerations that should not be ignored. Some of those considerations include:

- All interim studies are not created equal. Some have considerable breadth, depth, and complexity, while others are narrow and focused. Thus, Study B is not necessarily equally balanced with or interchangeable with Study A.
- The work of interim committees is not equal. Some have more extensive statutory duties and broader jurisdictions than others. Some have more members than others. Some have traditionally formed subcommittees that function much the same as full committees in terms of staff time and committee member effort.
- Interim studies are only part of what interim committees do during the interim. Each committee has a laundry list of statutory duties, including agency monitoring and administrative rule review.
- Each interim committee has the statutory authority to examine issues within its purview, which extends far beyond interim studies assigned. Staff experience suggests that each committee will exercise that authority to a greater or lesser extent. The issues that might arise or the level of involvement cannot be foreseen, but there is a history that these types of projects are likely to occur.
- Resources -- staff time, committee time, and funding -- are all limited.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

The Legislative Council invited the chief sponsor of each interim study to address the Council members on rationale for requesting and the merits and advisability of assigning the study. Two sponsors, Senator Glenn Roush (SJR 5) and Rep. Hal Jacobson (HJR 8), testified in person. Written testimony was received from Rep. Joan Andersen (HJR 41), Rep. Rick Laible (HJR 21), and Rep. Norma Bixby (HJR 40). Several other sponsors, both primary and co-sponsors, contacted individual members of the Legislative Council prior to the May 18 meeting.

After hearing from the study sponsors and from LSD staff regarding recommendations, the Council members made the assignments as listed in the table that follows.

PREVIEW OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES

The 2001-02 interim is just beginning to take shape. None of the interim committees has met yet, but the members of all committees have been appointed. (See related article on appointments.)

Staffing assignments for the committees are also taking shape. Following the table below is a list, by interim committee, of the staffing assignments that have been decided thus far.

In addition to the interim studies assigned by the Legislative Council, each of the interim committees has a range of statutory duties and responsibilities, which can be found in Title 5, chapter 5, part 3, MCA, or, specifically for the EQC, in Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, MCA. The duties and responsibilities for other committees of the legislature that meet during the interim are contained in various chapters within Title 5, MCA.

With an array of committee meetings being planned for June, work plans and meeting schedules will also be forthcoming shortly. Stay tuned as more information will be provided in subsequent issues of **THE INTERIM** newsletter. In the meantime, call the LSD with any questions you may have regarding the poll, a particular study, or any of the interim committees.

RANKINGS FROM THE 2001 INTERIM STUDY POLL 57th Legislative Session

Rank	Bill or Res. No.	Study Topic/Description	Legislative Council Assignment
1	HB 625	Study of school funding	Governor > Education and Local Govt. (ELG)
2	HJR 27	Oversight of coalbed methane development	Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
3	SJR 22	Study Health insurance and rising health care costs	Economic Affairs
4	HJR 1	Study mental health managed care	Legislative Finance
5	HB 2	Study of vacancy savings	Legislative Finance

6	SB 162	Review local government revenue dedication laws	Legislative Finance
7	HJR 41	Transfer of territory between school districts	Education and Local Government
8	SJR 5	Veterans' issues	State Admin & Vets.
9	SJR 8	Study privatization of foster care and adoption	Staff white paper Children & Families
10	SJR 21	Study taxation of rural lands	Revenue and Trans.
11	HJR 8	Study election reform	State Admin & Vet
12	HJR 42	Study alternatives for funding fire suppression	EQC
13	HJR 24	Study annexation laws	Did not assign
14	HJR 39	Study of criminal statutes	Law and Justice
15	HJR 21	Study management of forest fuels and air quality of open burning	EQC
16	HJR 15	Study community college laws	Did not assign
17	HJR 35	Study of prepaid college tuition	White paper ELG
18	HJR 40	Study of Pre-professional Skills Test in teacher licensure	Board of Public Education
19	SJR 6	Study of traffic codes	Request to Department of Transportation
20	HJR 37	Study of bicycle safety related to highway design and use, and drivers' education	Request to Department of Transportation
NA	HB 144	Implement extended use and distribution of TVX	Legislative Council and LSD staff

COMMITTEE STAFFING AND STUDY ASSIGNMENTS

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Gordy Higgins, Research Analyst
 Attorney: Bart Campbell
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

SJR 22 -- Health insurance costs and rising health care costs

EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Connie Erickson, Research Analyst
 Attorney: Eddy McClure
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

HB 625 -- K-12 school finance
 HJR 41 -- Laws on the transfer of territory between school districts
 HJR 35 -- Prepaid college tuition (staff white paper)

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Susan Fox, Research Analyst
 Attorney: David Niss
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

SJR 8 -- Privatize adoption and foster care (staff white paper)

LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Dave Bohyer, Research Director
 Attorney: Valencia Lane
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

HJR 39 -- Study criminal statutes, data bases
 Monitoring: HB 124, (Story) the "big bill"; SB 176, (McNutt) revise district court funding; the two related DOC bills on juveniles SB 386 (Waterman) and HB 146 (Shockley)

REVENUE AND TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Leanne Kurtz, Research Analyst
 Attorney: Lee Heiman
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

SJR 21 -- Study of taxation of agricultural and nonagricultural lands
 Monitoring: SJR 6 (traffic codes) and HJR 37 (bicycle safety)

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst
 Attorney: David Niss
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

SJR 5 -- Study veterans' issues
 HJR 8 -- Study voting systems
 Monitoring: public employee retirement legislation

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**Staffing**

Lead: Connie Erickson, Research Analyst
 Attorney: Eddy McClure
 Secretary: TBA

Interim Study Assignment

None

ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSITION ADVISORY COUNCIL**Staffing**

Lead: Jeff Martin, Research Analyst
 Attorney: TBA
 Secretary: Contract secretary

Interim Study Assignment

SB 390 (1999) -- transition of electric utility industry to a competitive marketplace

DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**Staffing**

Lead: Susan Fox, Research Analyst
 Attorney: John MacMaster
 Secretary: Lois O'Connor

Interim Study Assignment

None

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL**Staffing**

Lead: Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Analyst,
 Research Analysts: Krista Lee, Larry Mitchell, Mary Vandebosh
 Research Assistant: Maureen Theisen
 Attorney: Todd Everts
 Secretary: Contract secretary

Interim Study Assignment

HJR 27 -- EQC monitor EIS for development/production of coal bed methane
 HJR 42 -- Study funding of fire suppression
 HJR 21 -- Study burning of forest fuels and air quality

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**Staffing**

Lead: Lois Menzies
 Stephen Maly, et al.
 Attorney: Greg Petesch
 Secretary: Ellen Garrity

Interim Study Assignment

HB 144 -- Transition of legislative broadcasting and TVX
 CSG Legislative Council on River Governance
 Montana/Alberta Bilateral Advisory Committee (MABAC)
 Continuing investigation of judicial redistricting

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE/FISCAL DIVISION STAFF

Staffing

Lead: Clayton Schenck
 Attorney: Greg Petesch
 Secretary: Cindy Campbell

Interim Study Assignment

HB 2 -- Study of vacancy savings as a budgeting tool
 SB 162 -- Earmarking of local government revenue
 HJR 1 -- Study of mental health managed care



INTERIM CALENDAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED,
 ALL ROOM DESIGNATIONS ARE IN THE CAPITOL BLDG.

JUNE

June 15, Economic Affairs Committee, Capitol Building, Room 137, 9:30 a.m.

June 15, State Administration and Veterans' Affairs, Capitol Building, Room 102,
 9:00 a.m.

June 18, Legislative Finance Committee, Capitol Building, Room 102, 9:00 a.m.

June 18, Revenue and Transportation Committee, Capitol Building, Room 102,
 9:00 a.m., and Room 137 following joint meeting with the Legislative
 Finance Committee.

June 19, Tentative--Transition Advisory Committee, Capitol Building, Room 102,
 9:00 a.m.

June 25-26, Legislative Audit Committee, Capitol Building, Room 102, times to be
 determined.